

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention provides a controller and method for controlling interfacing to a data link, the data link enabling data items relating to a number of data elements to be transferred in corresponding data slots of the data link. The controller comprises at least one channel, each channel comprising a data buffer for storing data items, and a control register associated with the data buffer and arranged to store control data. The control data is settable to define for which data element or data elements data items are to be stored in that data buffer. Further, an interface mechanism is provided for controlling the transfer of data items between the at least one channel and the data slots of the data link in dependence upon said control data. This enables a generic controller to be developed, which is of an acceptable size and cost.